

## Supporting Information

### Unconventional Formation of Cyanamide, a Key Intermediate in Prebiotic Chemical Evolution, in Interstellar Ice Analogues

Jia Wang,<sup>1,2</sup> Joshua H. Marks,<sup>1,2</sup> André K. Eckhardt,<sup>3\*</sup> Ralf I. Kaiser<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *W. M. Keck Research Laboratory in Astrochemistry, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, United States*

<sup>2</sup> *Department of Chemistry, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, United States*

<sup>3</sup> *Lehrstuhl für Organische Chemie II, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum 44801, Germany*

\*Corresponding Authors:

André K. Eckhardt, [Andre.Eckhardt@ruhr-uni-bochum.de](mailto:Andre.Eckhardt@ruhr-uni-bochum.de)

Ralf I. Kaiser, [ralfk@hawaii.edu](mailto:ralfk@hawaii.edu)

## Methods

**Experimental.** All experiments were performed in an ultrahigh vacuum chamber maintained at pressures of a few  $10^{-11}$  Torr using magnetically suspended turbomolecular pumps in combination with and an oil-free scroll pump; the experimental setup used in this work has been described previously.<sup>1,2</sup> A closed-cycle helium cryostat cooled a polished silver substrate to temperatures as low as 5 K and enabled vertical translation and horizontal rotation via an adjustable bellows and a rotatable flange, respectively.<sup>1,2</sup> The experiments utilized ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ; Matheson, 99.99%), ammonia- $\text{d}_3$  ( $\text{ND}_3$ ; Sigma-Aldrich, 99% D), methylamine ( $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2$ ; 99.5% Matheson TriGas), and methylamine- $\text{d}_5$  ( $\text{CD}_3\text{ND}_2$ ; Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, 98% D). Once the substrate reached 5 K, the ice mixture was prepared by depositing ammonia and methylamine independently through separate glass capillary arrays at partial pressure of  $1 \times 10^{-8}$  Torr.<sup>3</sup> During deposition, the ice thickness was monitored *in situ* by laser interferometry through the recording interference fringes generated by a helium-neon laser (632.8 nm) reflected from both the silver substrate and the ice surface.<sup>4</sup> The thickness of  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NH}_2$  ice was determined to be  $700 \pm 30$  nm (Table S5) using an average refractive index ( $n$ ) of  $1.36 \pm 0.04$ , calculated from the refractive indices of ammonia ( $n = 1.33 \pm 0.01$ ) and methylamine ( $n = 1.38 \pm 0.01$ ) ices at 18 K.<sup>5</sup> Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectra of  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NH}_2$  and  $\text{ND}_3\text{-CD}_3\text{ND}_2$  ice mixtures were collected using a Nicolet 6700 spectrometer (Thermo Electron) over  $6000\text{-}500$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with  $4$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  resolution. The ratio of ammonia to methylamine in  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NH}_2$  ice was determined to be  $1.0 \pm 0.5$ : 1 using integrated infrared absorptions of  $\nu_2$  mode at  $1088$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $2.1 \times 10^{-17}$   $\text{cm molecule}^{-1}$ ) for ammonia,<sup>6</sup>  $\nu_6$  mode at  $1423$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $1.8 \times 10^{-19}$   $\text{cm molecule}^{-1}$ ), the combined  $\nu_5$  and  $\nu_{12}$  modes from  $1433$  to  $1520$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $1.73 \times 10^{-18}$   $\text{cm molecule}^{-1}$ ), the CH stretching region ( $\nu_2$ ,  $\nu_3$ , and  $\nu_{11}$ ) spanning  $2727\text{-}3015$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $2.3 \times 10^{-17}$   $\text{cm molecule}^{-1}$ ) for methylamine.<sup>5</sup> Ice densities of  $0.68 \pm 0.01$   $\text{g cm}^{-3}$  for  $\text{NH}_3$  ice and  $0.732 \pm 0.01$   $\text{g cm}^{-3}$  for  $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2$  ice were used.<sup>5</sup>

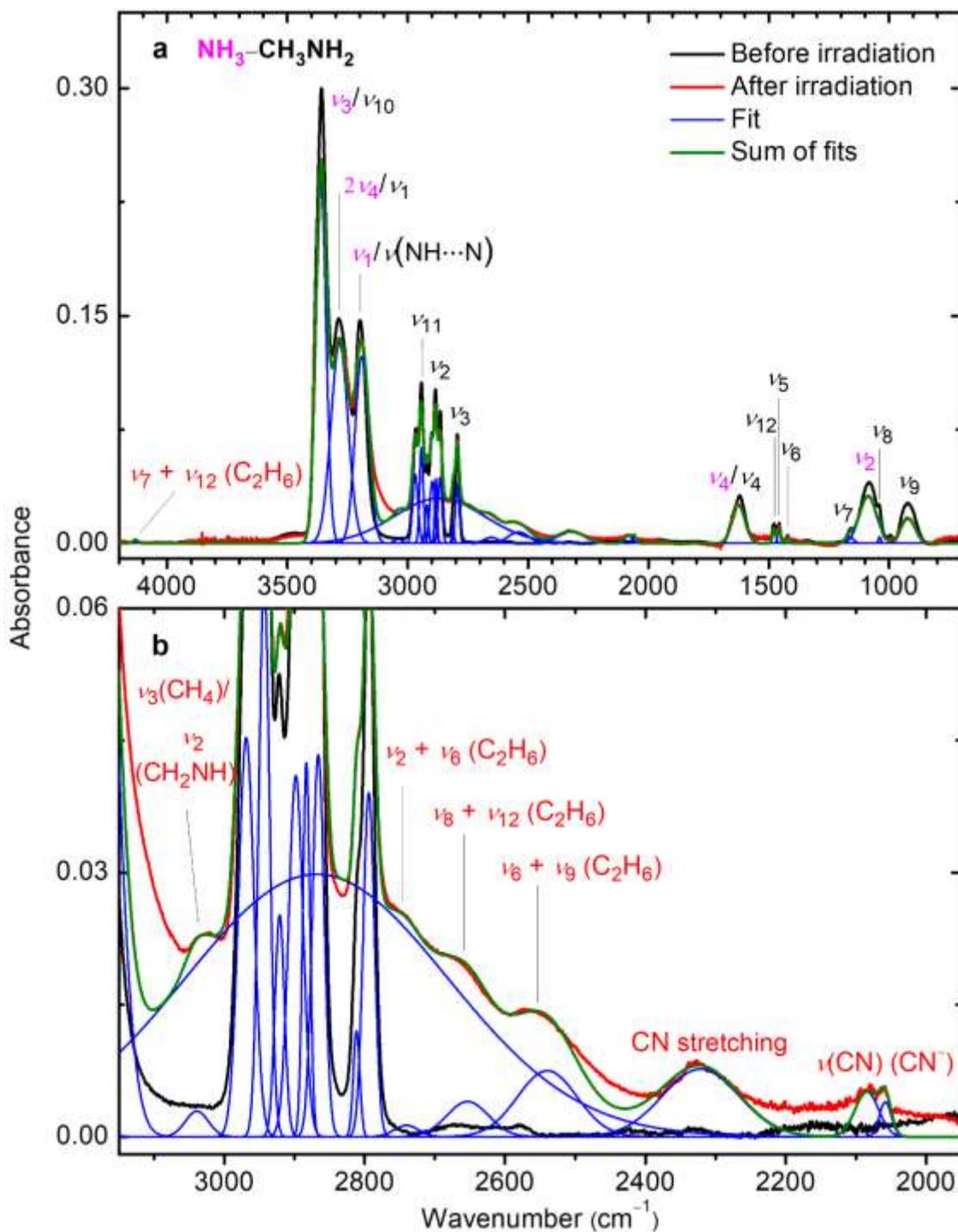
After deposition, the ice mixtures were subjected to energetic electron irradiation using a 5 keV electron gun (SPECS, EQ PU-22) to simulate secondary electrons generated by GCRs as they penetrate interstellar ices in cold molecular cloud.<sup>7,8</sup> The ice mixtures were irradiated at an incidence angle of  $70^\circ$  with a beam current of 103 nA for 60 minutes (low dose) and 996 nA, 60 minutes (high dose) (Table S5). The low irradiation dose of  $6.7 \pm 1.0$  eV ammonia<sup>-1</sup> and  $12 \pm 2$  eV methylamine<sup>-1</sup> was calculated via Monte Carlo simulations with the CASINO software suite<sup>9</sup>

and corresponds to GCR exposure over molecular cloud lifetimes of  $(3.9 \pm 0.6) \times 10^7$  years.<sup>10</sup> Monte Carlo simulations indicate an average penetration depth of  $360 \pm 40$  nm for electrons in  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NH}_2$  ice, with 99% of the electron energy deposited within the upper  $560 \pm 50$  nm of the ice—well below the total thickness of  $950 \pm 50$  nm—thus preventing electron–substrate interactions. Infrared spectra of the ices were collected *in situ* before, during, and after electron irradiation to monitor chemical evolution.

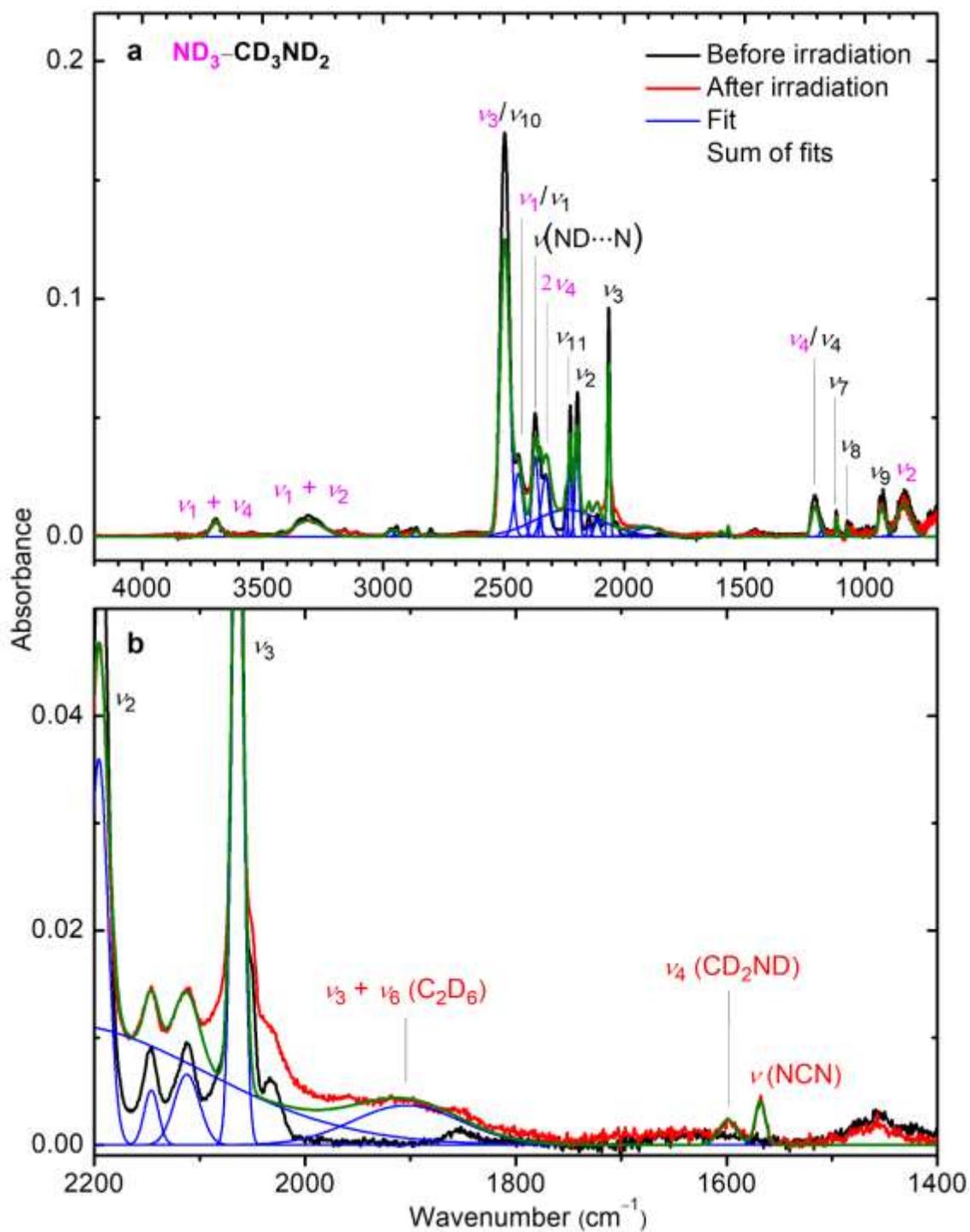
After irradiation, the ices were subjected to temperature-programmed desorption (TPD) by heating from 5 to 320 K at a rate of  $1 \text{ K min}^{-1}$ . Molecules desorbing into the gas phase during TPD were photoionized with pulsed (30 Hz) vacuum ultraviolet (VUV) light at 10.70, 10.35, and 10.40–10.61, which were generated via resonant four-wave mixing in a krypton gas jet through difference-frequency generation ( $2\omega_1 - \omega_2$ ). The laser beams ( $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$ ) were generated by two tunable dye laser (Sirah Lasertechnik, Cobra-Stretch) pumped by two Nd:YAG lasers (Spectra-Physics Quanta Ray PRO 270-30 and 250-30), with detailed VUV generation parameters provided in Table S6. The VUV light was separated from the fundamental beams ( $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$ ) using a biconvex lithium fluoride lens in an off-axis configuration and directed  $2.0 \pm 0.5$  mm above the ice surface to ionize subliming molecules in the gas phase. The resulting ions were analyzed with a reflectron time-of-flight mass spectrometer (Jordan TOF Products) and detected using a dual microchannel plate detector. Ion signals processed through amplification and discrimination and recorded using a multichannel scaler (FAST ComTec, MCS6A). Each mass spectrum was acquired with a temporal resolution of 3.2 ns and was accumulated for 2 minutes (3600 sweeps).

**Computational.** All computations were conducted with Gaussian 16, Revision C.01.<sup>11</sup> In general, we used the density functional theory (DFT) B3LYP functional<sup>12-14</sup> in combination with the Dunning correlation consistent split valence basis set cc-pVTZ<sup>15</sup> for geometry optimizations and frequency calculations. The electronic energies based on these geometries were refined at the frozen-core coupled cluster<sup>16-19</sup> CCSD(T)/cc-pVTZ and CCSD(T)/cc-pVQZ level of theory and the obtained single point energies were extrapolated to the complete basis set limit<sup>20-22</sup> using ORCA 6.0.1.<sup>23</sup> The overall energy was obtained by correcting the electronic energies at the CCSD(T)/CBS level of theory with the zero-point vibrational energies (ZPVE) calculated at the B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ level of theory. The adiabatic ionization energies (IEs) were obtained by taking the ZPVE-corrected energy difference between radical cationic and neutral species of

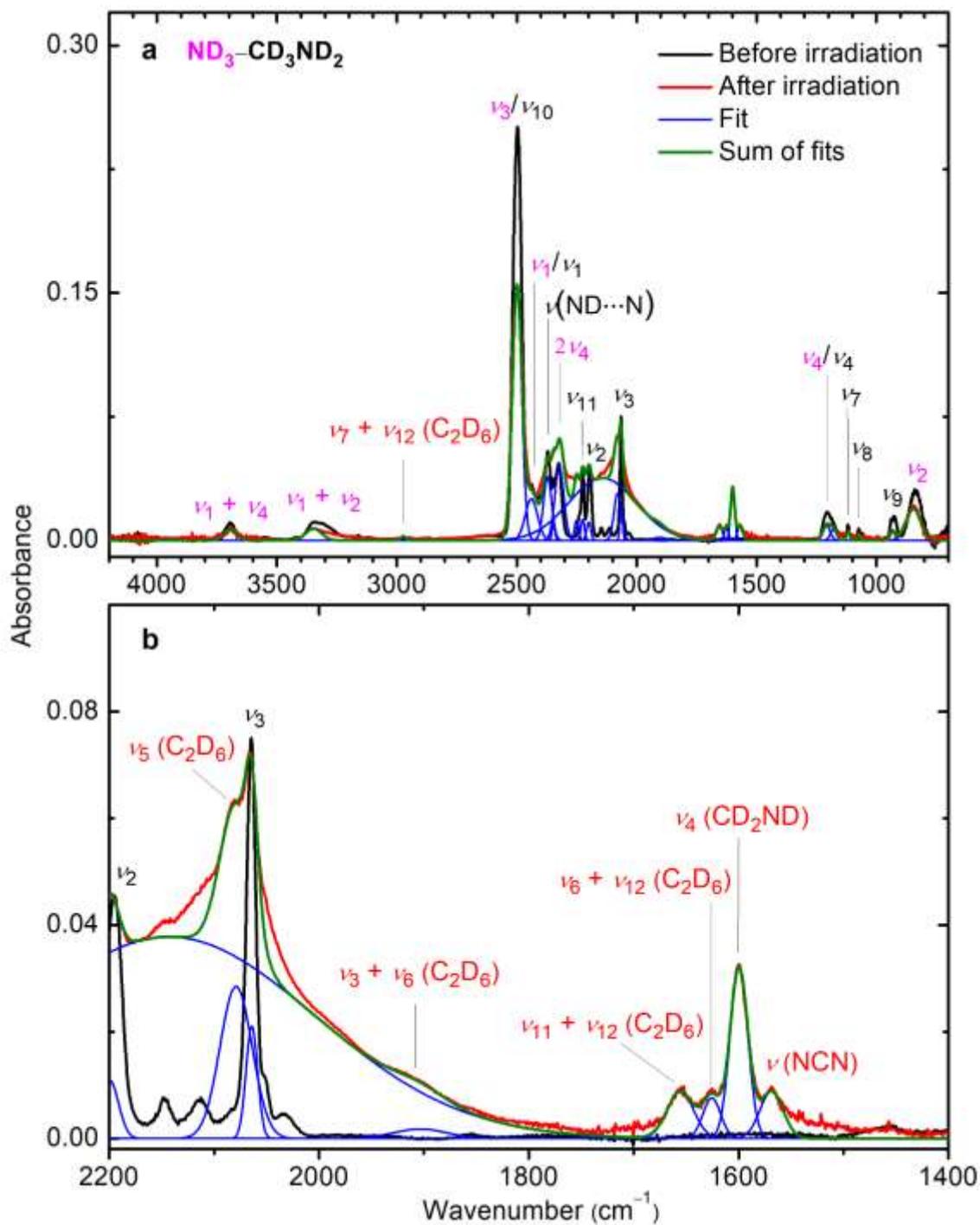
similar conformations. The IE ranges are corrected for the combined error limits of  $-0.03/+0.06$  eV<sup>24</sup> and the thermal and Stark effect by  $-0.03$  eV (Table S4). Franck Condon factors were computed at the same B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ level of theory. Cartesian coordinates and harmonic frequencies are summarized in Table S7.



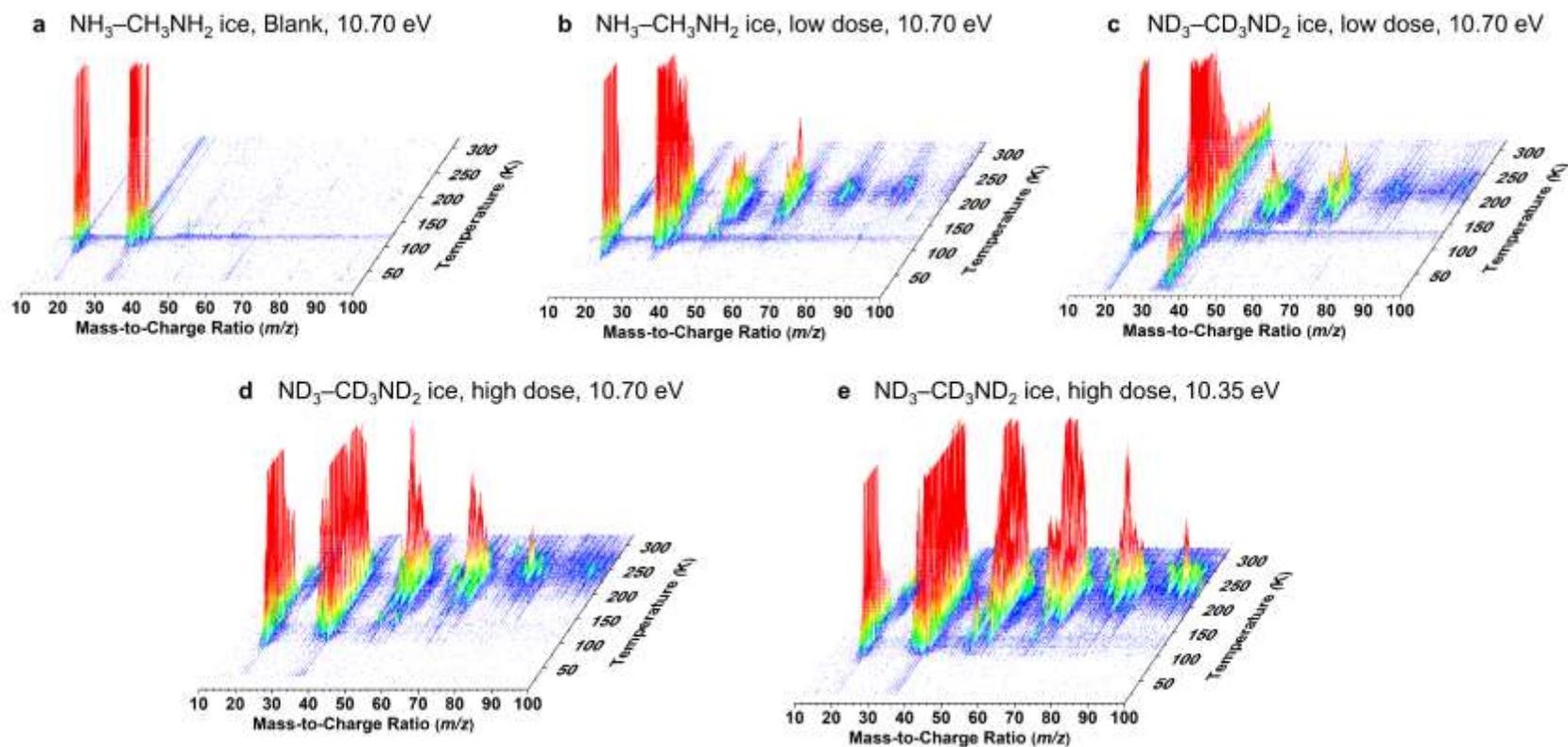
**Figure S1.** Infrared spectra of (a)  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NH}_2$  ice recorded before and after low-dose irradiation (103 nA, 60 minutes) at 5 K, and (b) a magnified view with deconvolution of the 3150–1950  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region. Absorptions attributed to  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_2$ , and new absorptions after irradiation are labeled in magenta, black, and red, respectively. Detailed assignments are provided in Table S1.



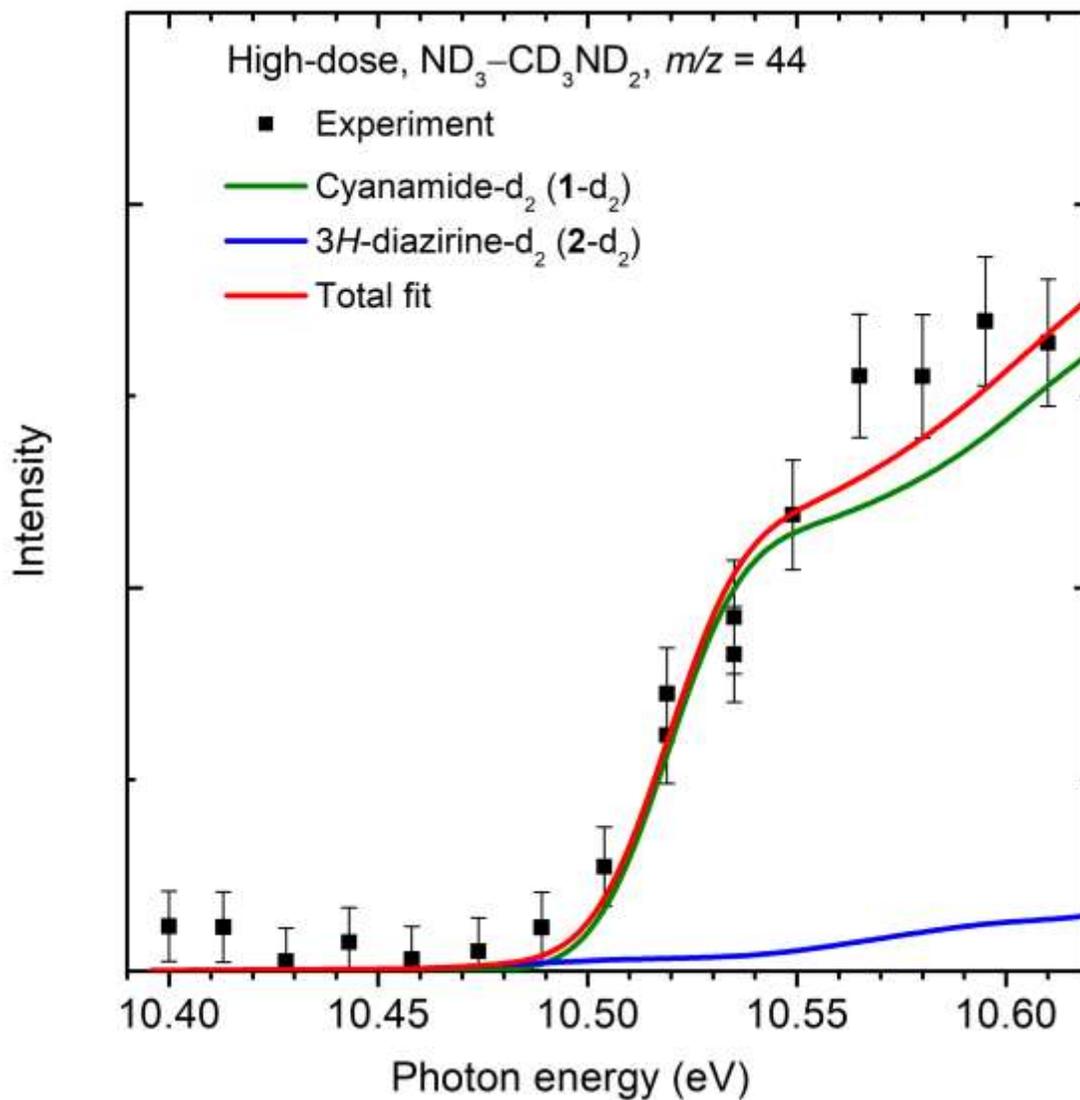
**Figure S2.** Infrared spectra of (a)  $\text{ND}_3\text{-CD}_3\text{ND}_2$  ice recorded before and after low-dose irradiation (102 nA, 60 minutes) at 5 K, and (b) a magnified view with deconvolution of the 2200–1400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region. Absorptions attributed to  $\text{ND}_3$ ,  $\text{CD}_3\text{ND}_2$ , and new absorptions after irradiation are labeled in magenta, black, and red, respectively. Detailed assignments are provided in Table S2.



**Figure S3.** Infrared spectra of (a)  $\text{ND}_3\text{-CD}_3\text{ND}_2$  ice recorded before and after high-dose irradiation (972 nA, 60 minutes) at 5 K, and (b) a magnified view with deconvolution of the 2200–1400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region. Absorptions attributed to  $\text{ND}_3$ ,  $\text{CD}_3\text{ND}_2$ , and new absorptions after irradiation are labeled in magenta, black, and red, respectively. Detailed assignments are provided in Table S3.



**Figure S4.** PI-ReToF-MS data of ammonia–methylamine ices during TPD. Data were recorded at 10.70 eV for the blank (unirradiated)  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NH}_2$  ice (a), low-dose irradiated  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CH}_3\text{NH}_2$  ice (b) and  $\text{ND}_3\text{-CD}_3\text{ND}_2$  ice at 10.70 eV (c), and high-dose irradiated  $\text{ND}_3\text{-CD}_3\text{ND}_2$  ice recorded at 10.70 eV (d) and 10.35 eV (e).



**Figure S5.** Photoionization efficiency (PIE) curve of  $m/z = 44$  collected during TPD between 237 and 255 K after correction for temperature-dependent sublimation rate. Fitting the experimental data with simulated Franck–Condon PIE curves of cyanamide- $\text{d}_2$  ( $1\text{-d}_2$ ) and  $3H$ -diazirine- $\text{d}_2$  ( $2\text{-d}_2$ ) shows that up to 7% of the total ion signal can be attributed to  $2\text{-d}_2$ , indicating its tentative assignment.

**Table S1.** Observed absorption peaks of NH<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> ice before and after irradiation (103 nA, 60 minutes) at 5 K.

Infrared absorptions before irradiation (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	
NH <sub>3</sub>	Assignment <sup>3,6</sup>
4995	$\nu_1 + \nu_4$
4474	$\nu_1 + \nu_2$
3356	$\nu_3$
3284	$2\nu_4$
3191	$\nu_1$
1626	$\nu_4$
1088	$\nu_2$
CH <sub>3</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>	Assignment <sup>3,25,26</sup>
4948	$\nu_1 + \nu_4$
3356	$\nu_{10}$
3284	$\nu_1$
3191	$\nu(\text{NH})$ H-bonding
2943	$\nu_{11}$
2883	$\nu_2$
2794	$\nu_3$
2969	$2\nu_{12}$
2921	$\nu_5 + \nu_{12}$
2898	$2\nu_5$
2812	$\nu_4 + \nu_7$
1626	$\nu_4$
1478	$\nu_{12}$
1458	$\nu_5$
1423	$\nu_6$
1164	$\nu_7$
1040	$\nu_8$
923	$\nu_9$
New infrared absorptions after irradiation (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	
	Assignment
4132	$\nu_7 + \nu_{12}$ (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> ) <sup>27</sup>
3039	$\nu_3$ (CH <sub>4</sub> ) <sup>28</sup> / $\nu_2$ (CH <sub>2</sub> NH) <sup>29</sup>
2869	C-H stretching <sup>27,30</sup>
2740	$\nu_2 + \nu_6$ (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> ) <sup>27</sup>
2653	$\nu_8 + \nu_{12}$ (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> ) <sup>27</sup>
2540	$\nu_6 + \nu_9$ (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> ) <sup>27</sup>
2321	C≡N stretching <sup>30</sup>
2085, 2058	$\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{N})$ (CN <sup>-</sup> ) <sup>31</sup>

**Table S2.** Observed absorption peaks of ND<sub>3</sub>-CD<sub>3</sub>ND<sub>2</sub> ice before and after irradiation (102 nA, 60 minutes) at 5 K.

Infrared absorptions before irradiation (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	
ND <sub>3</sub>	Assignment <sup>3</sup>
4809	2ν <sub>1</sub> + ν <sub>4</sub>
3696	ν <sub>1</sub> + ν <sub>4</sub>
3311	ν <sub>1</sub> + ν <sub>2</sub>
2495	ν <sub>3</sub>
2439	ν <sub>1</sub>
2325	2ν <sub>4</sub>
1180	ν <sub>4</sub>
838	ν <sub>2</sub>
CD <sub>3</sub> ND <sub>2</sub>	Assignment <sup>3,25</sup>
4809	2ν <sub>1</sub>
2968	ν <sub>3</sub> + ν <sub>9</sub>
2943	ν <sub>11</sub> (CH <sub>3</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> )
2864	ν <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>3</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> )
2803	ν <sub>3</sub> (CH <sub>3</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> )
2495	ν <sub>10</sub>
2439	ν <sub>1</sub>
2369	ν(ND) H-bonding
2347	ν <sub>4</sub> + ν <sub>11</sub>
2240	2ν <sub>7</sub>
2224	ν <sub>11</sub>
2196	ν <sub>2</sub>
2064	ν <sub>3</sub>
1208	ν <sub>4</sub>
1118	ν <sub>7</sub>
1073	ν <sub>8</sub>
930	ν <sub>9</sub>
New infrared absorptions after irradiation (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	
	Assignment
2234	CD stretching
1904	ν <sub>3</sub> + ν <sub>6</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> D <sub>6</sub> ) <sup>27</sup>
1599	ν <sub>4</sub> (CD <sub>2</sub> ND) <sup>29</sup>
1568	ν(NCN) <sup>32</sup>

**Table S3.** Observed absorption peaks of ND<sub>3</sub>-CD<sub>3</sub>ND<sub>2</sub> ice before and after high-dose irradiation (972 nA, 60 minutes) at 5 K.

Infrared absorptions before irradiation (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	
ND <sub>3</sub>	Assignment <sup>3</sup>
4814	2ν <sub>1</sub> + ν <sub>4</sub>
3695	ν <sub>1</sub> + ν <sub>4</sub>
3347	ν <sub>1</sub> + ν <sub>2</sub>
2499	ν <sub>3</sub>
2439	ν <sub>1</sub>
2323	2ν <sub>4</sub>
1179	ν <sub>4</sub>
846	ν <sub>2</sub>
CD <sub>3</sub> ND <sub>2</sub>	Assignment <sup>3,25</sup>
4814	2ν <sub>1</sub>
2973	ν <sub>3</sub> + ν <sub>9</sub>
2499	ν <sub>10</sub>
2439	ν <sub>1</sub>
2371	ν(ND) H-bonding
2347	ν <sub>4</sub> + ν <sub>11</sub>
2250	2ν <sub>7</sub>
2225	ν <sub>11</sub>
2200	ν <sub>2</sub>
2064	ν <sub>3</sub>
1208	ν <sub>4</sub>
1119	ν <sub>7</sub>
1074	ν <sub>8</sub>
933	ν <sub>9</sub>
New infrared absorptions after irradiation (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	
	Assignment
2973	ν <sub>7</sub> + ν <sub>12</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> D <sub>6</sub> ) <sup>27</sup>
2143	CD stretching
2079	ν <sub>5</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> D <sub>6</sub> ) <sup>27</sup>
1904	ν <sub>3</sub> + ν <sub>6</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> D <sub>6</sub> ) <sup>27</sup>
1655	ν <sub>11</sub> + ν <sub>12</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> D <sub>6</sub> ) <sup>27</sup>
1626	ν <sub>6</sub> + ν <sub>12</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> D <sub>6</sub> ) <sup>27</sup>
1600	ν <sub>4</sub> (CD <sub>2</sub> ND) <sup>29</sup>
1569	ν(NCN) <sup>32</sup>

**Table S4.** Error analysis of adiabatic ionization energies (IEs) and relative energies ( $\Delta E$ ) of  $\text{CH}_2\text{N}_2$  isomers calculated at the CCSD(T)/CBS//B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ level of theory including the zero-point vibrational energy (ZPVE) corrections. The IE ranges are corrected for the combined error limits of  $-0.03/+0.06 \text{ eV}^{24}$  and the thermal and Stark effect by  $-0.03 \text{ eV}$ .

Isomers	Structure	$\Delta E$ ( $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ )	Computed IE (eV)	Corrected IE ranges (eV)
<b>1</b> Cyanamide		0	10.58	10.52–10.61
<b>2</b> 3 <i>H</i> -Diazirine		178	10.43	10.37–10.46
<b>3</b> Isocyanamide		186	10.29	10.23–10.32
<b>4</b> Methanediimine		11	10.24	10.18–10.27
<b>5</b> 1 <i>H</i> -Diazirine		63	9.63	9.57–9.66
<b>6</b> Methyl, 2-hydrazinyl-1-ylidene-		236	9.08	9.02–9.11
<b>7</b> Diazomethane		32	9.00	8.94–9.03

**Table S5.** Experimental parameters of ammonia–methylamine ices: ice composition, ratio, thickness, irradiation current and time, and photon energy.

Ice composition	Ratio of ammonia to methylamine	Thickness (nm)	Current (nA)	Irradiation time (s)	Dose (eV/ammonia)	Dose (eV/methylamine)	Photon energy (eV)
NH <sub>3</sub> –CH <sub>3</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>	0.9 ± 0.5 : 1	700 ± 30	–	–	–	–	10.70
NH <sub>3</sub> –CH <sub>3</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>	0.5 ± 0.3 : 1	700 ± 30	103 ± 2	3600 ± 10	6.7 ± 1.0	12 ± 2	10.70
ND <sub>3</sub> –CD <sub>3</sub> ND <sub>2</sub>	0.4 ± 0.1 : 1	700 ± 30	102 ± 1	3600 ± 10	7.7 ± 1.2	14 ± 2	10.70
ND <sub>3</sub> –CD <sub>3</sub> ND <sub>2</sub>	0.9 ± 0.2 : 1	700 ± 30	996 ± 10	3600 ± 10	76 ± 12	135 ± 21	10.70
ND <sub>3</sub> –CD <sub>3</sub> ND <sub>2</sub>	1.0 ± 0.2 : 1	700 ± 30	972 ± 10	3600 ± 10	74 ± 11	132 ± 20	10.35
ND <sub>3</sub> –CD <sub>3</sub> ND <sub>2</sub>	1.4 ± 0.5 : 1	720 ± 40	1025 ± 10	3600 ± 10	78 ± 12	139 ± 21	10.40–10.54
ND <sub>3</sub> –CD <sub>3</sub> ND <sub>2</sub>	1.1 ± 0.3 : 1	750 ± 40	1005 ± 10	3600 ± 10	76 ± 12	137 ± 21	10.52–10.61

**Table S6.** Parameters for generating vacuum ultraviolet (VUV) light, with the photon energy uncertainty of less than 0.001 eV.

VUV photon energy (eV) ( $2\omega_1 - \omega_2$ )	Nonlinear medium in four- wave mixing	Laser wavelength for $\omega_1$ (nm)	Dye for $\omega_1$	Laser wavelength for $\omega_2$ (nm)	Dye for $\omega_2$
10.70	Krypton	202.316	Rhodamine 610 and 640	796.573	LDS 798
10.52–10.61	Krypton	202.316	Rhodamine 610 and 640	714–753	LDS 751
10.40–10.54	Krypton	202.316	Rhodamine 610 and 640	667–722	LDS 698
10.35	Krypton	202.316	Rhodamine 610 and 640	650.334	Rhodamine 640

**Table S7.** Optimized Cartesian coordinates (distances in Å), electronic energies (in hartree), harmonic frequencies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), and infrared intensities ( $\text{km mol}^{-1}$ ) of  $\text{CH}_2\text{N}_2$  isomers calculated at B3LYP/aug-cc-pVTZ level of theory.

<b>1</b>				<b>1 radical cation</b>			
N	1.192742	-0.009308	-0.000000	N	1.134508	-0.202112	-0.000000
C	-0.147453	-0.001016	0.000000	C	-0.134290	-0.035812	0.000000
H	1.625330	-0.354866	-0.843507	H	1.655212	-0.270493	-0.879711
H	1.625330	-0.354866	0.843507	H	1.655212	-0.270493	0.879711
N	-1.300337	0.061259	0.000000	N	-1.313994	0.118733	0.000000
E = -148.8486067				E = -148.4666977			
E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.6218664				E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.2320102			
ZPVE = 21.3255 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>				ZPVE = 20.5533 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>			
<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>			<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>		
411.5221	0.2169			379.4516	0.8966		
489.7130	79.3987			409.9781	0.4718		
563.8031	141.7468			759.3035	186.8130		
1093.7343	10.0069			1126.7964	3.7895		
1194.3711	0.0390			1183.8209	0.7914		
1632.5373	39.2154			1601.7577	80.4213		
2350.3298	118.4330			2063.5870	69.8052		
3545.7901	40.0852			3378.5865	300.8298		
3635.6087	65.8218			3473.9556	273.7512		
<b>2</b>				<b>2 radical cation</b>			
N	0.000000	-0.607674	0.475872	N	-0.000000	0.534480	-0.521510
N	-0.000000	0.607674	0.475872	N	0.000000	-0.597988	-0.687787
C	0.000000	-0.000000	-0.872672	C	-0.000000	0.071502	0.933342
H	0.931848	0.000000	-1.416551	H	0.977205	-0.009838	1.388629
H	-0.931848	-0.000000	-1.416551	H	-0.977205	-0.009838	1.388629
E = -148.7759796				E = -148.3944089			
E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.5532859				E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.1668715			
ZPVE = 20.8699 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>				ZPVE = 18.8910 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>			
<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>			<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>		
827.6801	14.0601			224.1791	4.1822		
988.2258	0.0000			509.5657	0.0107		
1002.7159	32.6710			674.7281	12.5296		
1025.6857	4.2675			878.0015	31.1768		
1144.6669	3.7669			1067.3884	3.2289		
1499.3441	3.1667			1404.3983	12.1320		

1730.6800	23.1397			2012.4778	22.3882		
3132.6337	6.1645			3127.9804	42.8812		
3247.0452	9.4391			3315.7052	75.2802		
<b>3</b>				<b>3 radical cation</b>			
N	1.154127	0.010092	-0.000000	N	1.058215	-0.263142	-0.000000
N	-0.200442	-0.014110	0.000000	N	-0.186828	-0.048893	0.000000
H	1.496798	-0.463085	-0.828831	H	1.551752	-0.348026	-0.894629
H	1.496798	-0.463085	0.828831	H	1.551752	-0.348026	0.894629
C	-1.364295	0.082473	0.000000	C	-1.379951	0.155752	0.000000
E = -148.7779304				E = -148.4049327			
E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.5505730				E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.1704840			
ZPVE = 21.1217 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>				ZPVE = 19.9534 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>			
<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>			<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>		
265.2047	1.3549			175.4666	0.5911		
352.4071	5.3779			200.5967	13.5137		
844.4880	123.4833			680.8759	159.9760		
1053.5386	20.4404			1184.4584	5.7116		
1342.8954	4.3799			1235.4504	0.3794		
1659.9976	20.8101			1629.3049	49.6841		
2217.9883	33.3598			2020.0144	329.4370		
3475.3431	10.6086			3352.5758	217.4749		
3562.9747	30.3254			3478.8618	238.6257		
<b>4</b>				<b>4 radical cation</b>			
C	0.000198	-0.017909	-0.001709	C	-0.000000	0.000000	0.083712
N	-1.210768	0.085927	-0.094204	N	1.200028	-0.000000	-0.075291
N	1.210975	0.071883	0.106055	N	-1.200028	0.000000	-0.075291
H	1.815238	-0.464925	-0.499808	H	-2.006664	0.000000	0.547749
H	-1.814131	-0.533026	0.428497	H	2.006664	-0.000000	0.547749
E = -148.8497725				E = -148.4734161			
E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.6162695				E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.2364167			
ZPVE = 20.4910 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>				ZPVE = 18.1807 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>			
<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>			<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>		
545.1149	0.4443			222.7380	351.8951		
548.9176	72.7798			471.8782	13.1116		
715.7462	89.5040			517.2969	28.5769		
916.9507	441.9046			592.9679	0.0000		
918.5857	14.6197			760.4516	109.7934		
1288.0138	0.0000			1318.4123	0.1256		
2216.4862	703.4179			1805.2224	8.9475		
3590.3990	147.2469			3504.3791	705.5516		

3593.4584	23.8482			3524.2359	150.0997		
<b>5</b>				<b>5 radical cation</b>			
C	0.362980	-0.561586	0.013773	C	0.402673	-0.621817	-0.005229
N	-0.898836	0.042220	-0.141371	N	-0.726566	0.051150	0.073270
N	0.661869	0.635767	0.010304	N	0.599151	0.660612	-0.039214
H	-1.310940	0.163292	0.787038	H	-1.505893	0.252954	0.710601
H	0.805118	-1.547128	0.056993	H	0.850827	-1.610335	-0.012690
E = -148.7444342				E = -148.3942772			
E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.5206107				E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.1652085			
ZPVE = 20.3922 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>				ZPVE = 19.5208 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>			
Frequency	Intensity			Frequency	Intensity		
548.0821	7.7608			601.0120	100.2491		
817.4672	24.4000			756.8742	65.7025		
966.1262	56.0518			879.9409	52.4801		
1035.4545	18.7495			958.5678	25.4798		
1178.2445	30.2507			994.7045	5.7754		
1344.9800	12.2867			1221.6355	16.2919		
1789.6795	6.9539			1632.1169	27.2374		
3204.4846	1.2572			3210.8774	110.9954		
3380.0050	1.7673			3399.2376	298.2043		
<b>6</b>				<b>6 radical cation</b>			
N	0.271502	-1.115568	0.073407	N	-1.176243	-0.090731	-0.000000
N	-0.025194	0.081571	-0.024001	N	0.081251	0.054106	-0.000000
C	-0.461331	1.161709	-0.248514	C	1.234581	-0.014317	0.000000
H	1.285438	-1.225761	0.024303	H	-1.647936	0.829678	-0.000000
H	-0.701095	1.993220	0.387868	H	2.311445	-0.049892	0.000000
E = -148.7640902				E = -148.4296348			
E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.5295357				E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.1943337			
ZPVE = 19.8592 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>				ZPVE = 18.8538 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>			
<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>			<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>		
475.0401	8.9772			421.8955	33.3892		
529.5602	116.8626			436.6575	26.3120		
646.9055	283.3073			624.0977	44.9530		
839.1999	40.2271			646.6780	22.7624		
1246.2942	118.4964			1045.8051	85.0470		
1319.3475	54.5182			1288.9587	74.9042		
2126.2701	421.2551			2084.0177	3.9990		
3290.3256	51.9843			3310.1024	420.3964		
3418.7885	14.0301			3330.1860	63.9670		

<b>7</b>				<b>7 radical cation</b>			
N	-0.000000	0.000000	1.287561	N	-0.000000	-0.000000	1.291807
N	-0.000000	-0.000000	0.155450	N	-0.000000	-0.000000	0.179451
C	0.000000	0.000000	-1.136620	C	0.000000	0.000000	-1.154312
H	0.000000	0.950107	-1.640680	H	0.000000	0.966573	-1.645958
H	-0.000000	-0.950107	-1.640680	H	-0.000000	-0.966573	-1.645958
E = -148.8015772				E = -148.4679643			
E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.5682504				E[CCSD(T)/CBS] = -148.2368420			
ZPVE = 19.8652 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>				ZPVE = 19.5092 kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>			
<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>			<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Intensity</b>		
429.6356	0.2021			386.6022	0.9245		
438.1438	127.1371			434.8546	0.4029		
581.1458	7.9300			747.7559	44.6997		
1116.9036	2.3631			1051.2604	0.2939		
1208.8382	4.9737			1111.6317	3.1503		
1439.8783	35.8292			1401.7917	31.1897		
2190.8264	446.9922			2150.5166	25.4517		
3184.9355	14.1755			3107.9938	97.4798		
3305.5990	2.7494			3254.4665	88.7894		

## Supplementary References

- (1) Abplanalp, M. J.; Forstel, M.; Kaiser, R. I. Exploiting single photon vacuum ultraviolet photoionization to unravel the synthesis of complex organic molecules in interstellar ices. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **2016**, *644*, 79-98.
- (2) Wang, J.; Zhang, C.; Marks, J. H.; Evseev, M. M.; Kuznetsov, O. V.; Antonov, I. O.; Kaiser, R. I. Interstellar formation of lactaldehyde, a key intermediate in the methylglyoxal pathway. *Nat. Commun.* **2024**, *15*, 10189.
- (3) Marks, J. H.; Wang, J.; Fortenberry, R. C.; Kaiser, R. I. Preparation of methanediamine (CH<sub>2</sub>(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>)—A precursor to nucleobases in the interstellar medium. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2022**, *119*, e2217329119.
- (4) Turner, A. M.; Abplanalp, M. J.; Chen, S. Y.; Chen, Y. T.; Chang, A. H. H.; Kaiser, R. I. A photoionization mass spectroscopic study on the formation of phosphanes in low temperature phosphine ices. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2015**, *17*, 27281-27291.
- (5) Hudson, R. L.; Yarnall, Y. Y.; Gerakines, P. A. Infrared spectral intensities of amine ices, precursors to amino acids. *Astrobiology* **2022**, *22*, 452-461.
- (6) Bouilloud, M.; Fray, N.; Benilan, Y.; Cottin, H.; Gazeau, M. C.; Jolly, A. Bibliographic review and new measurements of the infrared band strengths of pure molecules at 25 K: H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, CO, CH<sub>4</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>OH, HCOOH and H<sub>2</sub>CO. *Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc.* **2015**, *451*, 2145-2160.
- (7) Kaiser, R. I.; Roessler, K. Theoretical and laboratory studies on the interaction of cosmic-ray particles with interstellar ices. I. Synthesis of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons by a cosmic-ray-induced multicenter mechanism. *Astrophys. J.* **1997**, *475*, 144.
- (8) Ferrari, B. C.; Slavicinska, K.; Bennett, C. J. Role of suprathreshold chemistry on the evolution of carbon oxides and organics within interstellar and cometary ices. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2021**, *54*, 1067-1079.
- (9) Drouin, D.; Couture, A. R.; Joly, D.; Tastet, X.; Aimez, V.; Gauvin, R. CASINO V2.42 - A fast and easy-to-use modeling tool for scanning electron microscopy and microanalysis users. *Scanning* **2007**, *29*, 92-101.
- (10) Yeghikyan, A. G. Irradiation of dust in molecular clouds. II. Doses produced by cosmic rays. *Astrophysics* **2011**, *54*, 87-99.
- (11) M. J. Frisch, G. W. T., H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, et al. Gaussian 09, Revision D. 01; Gaussian: Wallingford, CT, USA. **2009**.
- (12) Becke, A. D. Density-functional exchange-energy: Approximation with correct asymptotic behavior. *Phys. Rev. A* **1988**, *38*, 3098-3100.
- (13) Lee, C.; Yang, W.; Parr, R. G. Development of the Colle-Salvetti correlation-energy formula into a functional of the electron density. *Phys. Rev. B* **1988**, *37*, 785-789.
- (14) Becke, A. D. Density-functional thermochemistry. III. The role of exact exchange. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1993**, *98*, 5648-5652.
- (15) Dunning, T. H. Gaussian basis sets for use in correlated molecular calculations. I. The atoms boron through neon and hydrogen. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1989**, *90*, 1007-1023.
- (16) Čížek, J. On the correlation problem in atomic and molecular systems. Calculation of wavefunction components in ursell-type expansion using quantum-field theoretical methods. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1966**, *45*, 4256-4266.
- (17) Bartlett, R. J.; Watts, J. D.; Kucharski, S. A.; Noga, J. Non-iterative fifth-order triple and quadruple excitation energy corrections in correlated methods. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1990**, *165*, 513-522.

- (18) Raghavachari, K. Electron correlation techniques in quantum chemistry: Recent advances. *Annu. Rev. Phys. Chem.* **1991**, *42*, 615-642.
- (19) Stanton, J. F. Why CCSD(T) works: a different perspective. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1997**, *281*, 130-134.
- (20) Helgaker, T.; Klopper, W.; Koch, H.; Noga, J. Basis-set convergence of correlated calculations on water. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1997**, *106*, 9639-9646.
- (21) Halkier, A.; Helgaker, T.; Jørgensen, P.; Klopper, W.; Koch, H.; Olsen, J.; Wilson, A. K. Basis-set convergence in correlated calculations on Ne, N<sub>2</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>O. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1998**, *286*, 243-252.
- (22) Zhong, S.; Barnes, E. C.; Petersson, G. A. Uniformly convergent n-tuple- $\zeta$  augmented polarized (nZaP) basis sets for complete basis set extrapolations. I. Self-consistent field energies. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2008**, *129*, 184116.
- (23) Neese, F. Software update: The ORCA program system, version 4.0. *WIREs Comput. Mol. Sci.* **2018**, *8*, e1327.
- (24) Wang, J.; Sun, B.-J.; Bergantini, A.; Wang, Z.; Turner, A. M.; Chang, A. H. H.; Kaiser, R. I. Interstellar formation of the elusive phosphanyloxyphosphane (H<sub>2</sub>POPH<sub>2</sub>) and phosphanylphosphinous acid (H<sub>2</sub>PPHOH) via nonequilibrium chemistry: Precursors to the phosphate backbone of nucleotides. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2025**, *147*, 38987-38991.
- (25) Durig, J. R.; Bush, S. F.; Baglin, F. G. Infrared and raman investigation of condensed phases of methylamine and its deuterium derivatives. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1968**, *49*, 2106-2117.
- (26) Zhu, C.; Frigge, R.; Turner, A. M.; Abplanalp, M. J.; Sun, B.-J.; Chen, Y.-L.; Chang, A. H.; Kaiser, R. I. A vacuum ultraviolet photoionization study on the formation of methanimine (CH<sub>2</sub>NH) and ethylenediamine (NH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>) in low temperature interstellar model ices exposed to ionizing radiation. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2019**, *21*, 1952-1962.
- (27) Abplanalp, M. J.; Kaiser, R. I. Complex hydrocarbon chemistry in interstellar and solar system ices revealed: A combined infrared spectroscopy and reflectron time-of-flight mass spectrometry analysis of ethane (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>) and D<sub>6</sub>-ethane (C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>6</sub>) ices exposed to ionizing radiation. *Astrophys. J.* **2016**, *827*, 132.
- (28) Maity, S.; Kaiser, R. I.; Jones, B. M. Formation of ketene (H<sub>2</sub>CCO) in interstellar analogous methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)-carbon monoxide (CO) ices: A combined FTIR and reflectron time-of-flight mass spectroscopic study. *Astrophys. J.* **2014**, *789*, 36.
- (29) Jacox, M. E.; Milligan, D. E. The infrared spectrum of methylenimine. *J. Mol. Spectrosc.* **1975**, *56*, 333-356.
- (30) Socrates, G. *Infrared and raman characteristic group frequencies: Tables and charts*; John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., 2004.
- (31) Gerakines, P. A.; Moore, M. H.; Hudson, R. L. Ultraviolet photolysis and proton irradiation of astrophysical ice analogs containing hydrogen cyanide. *Icarus* **2004**, *170*, 202-213.
- (32) Davies, M.; Jones, W. J. The infra-red spectrum and structure of cyanamide and dimethylcyanamide. *Trans. Faraday Soc.* **1958**, *54*, 1454-1463.